

Date

Robert A Moore
Town Attorney, Town of Arcadia
P.O. Box 497
Ringgold, Louisiana 71068

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2020-909

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its February 5, 2021 meeting, considered a request from the Town of Arcadia (the "Town") to approve a plan allowing Joseph Pruitt, Jr. to enter into a lease with the Town and to recuse himself from any matters relating to the Arcadia Outlet Mall or his lease.

You provided that the Town owns an outlet store mall facility (the "Mall"). The Mall currently has multiple vacancies (estimated 15% occupancy). Leases for the facility are handled by the Mayor's office and the town attorney. Joseph Pruitt, Jr. is a member of the Arcadia Town Council, but also works as a barber in a private capacity. Mr. Pruitt would like to enter into a lease for a space in the Mall. The Town of Arcadia has a population less than 5,000 people, according to the last decennial census.

The Town has submitted a plan and a proposed lease to avoid any potential violation of La. R.S. 42:1113(A)(1), whereby Mr. Pruitt would recuse himself from any involvement in the oversight or review of any matter involving the Mall. The oversight of the Mall would be reviewed by the Mayor and the Town Attorney. The plan sets forth dates for the affidavit required under Section 1123(22) to be filed. The terms of the lease are identical in form and language to those of the other tenants in the Mall.

Based on the facts presented, the Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that it approved the plan as proposed.

La. R.S. 42:1113(A)(1)(a) states no public servant, or a member of such a public servant's immediate family, or a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

La. R.S. 42:1123(22) provides that any mayor or member of a governing authority of a municipality with a population of five thousand or less, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest, from entering into any transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the municipality provided that the transactions are under the supervision or jurisdiction of the municipality and the municipality submits a plan to the Board of Ethics for approval in accordance with this Section.

Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of

Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Charles E. Reeves, Jr.
For the Board

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No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only.
and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.